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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------088432 221931Z /41
R 220229Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3314

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4603

STADIS//////////////////

EXDIS FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ODE, RP
SUBJECT: MODE - AGENCY PERSONNEL CEILINGS IN MANILA

REF: (A) STATE 072026, (B) STATE 066110

1. THIS MESSAGE DRAFTED PRIOR RECEIPT REF A IN RESPONSE REF B AND FS INSPECTOR'S REQUEST FOR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF AGENCY CEILINGS IN MANILA. I HAVE COMPLETED REVIEW OF CURRENT LEVELS AND PROJECTED LEVELS FOR SEPTEMBER 1978 AND APRIL 1979. REVIEW PROJECTS NET DECREASES, WITH AGENCIES' CONCURRENCE, OF 10 AMERICAN AND 19 LOCAL POSITIONS BY SEPTEMBER AND AN ADDITIONAL 11 AMERICAN AND 9 LOCAL BY APRIL 1979.

2. AGENCY BY AGENCY FIGURES ARE AS FOLLOWS (STATE NOT INCLUDED SINCE IT IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT OF ZBB.)

	MAR 78		SEPT 1978		APRIL 1979	
	CURRENT AUTH		PROJECTED AUTH		PROJECTED AUTH	
DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	AMER	LOC	AMER	LOC	AMER	LOC
ACTION						
PEACE CORPS	7	27	7	27	7	27

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AGRICULTURE						
FAS	2	3	2	3	2	3
ABMC	2	41	2	41	2	41
DEFENSE						

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DAO	10	4	10	4	10	4
JUSMAG	43	6	43	6	33	4
TOTAL DEFENSE	53	10	53	10	43	8
HEW						
SSA	1	0	1	0	1	0
JUSTICE						
DEA	3	1	3	1	3	1
INS	3	6	3	6	3	6
TOTAL JUSTICE	6	7	6	7	6	7
TRANSPORTATION						
COAST GUARD	2	1	2	1	2	1
TREASURY						
IRS	3	0	3	0	3	0
RDO	2	18	2	18	2	18
USADB	6	1	6	1	6	1
TOTAL TREASURY	11	19	11	19	11	19
USAID	62	197	51	188	51	188
USIA						
RSC	8	179	8	179	8	179
USIS	10	79	11	79	11	79

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VOA	12	150	12	150	12	150
TOTAL USIA	30	408	31	408	31	408
VETERANS ADMIN	12	266	12	256	11	249
TOTALS	188	979	178	960	167	951
PROJECTED REDUCTIONS						
MARCH/SEPTEMBER			-10	-19		
SEPTEMBER/APRIL			-11	-9		

3. I BELIEVE THESE REPRESENT MINIMUM REDUCTIONS POSSIBLE OVER NEXT YEAR. MORE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WOULD REQUIRE TWO ACTIONS:

A. AN INTERAGENCY OR OMB REVIEW OF OVERLAPPING MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS. I DO NOT SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHY SEVERAL AGENCIES NEED TO HAVE SEPARATE MOTOR POOLS AND SEPARATE GENERAL SERVICES. EACH INSISTS THAT ITS PARTICULAR ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT IS ESSENTIAL AND NO CURRENT OVERALL INSPECTION OF THIS ASPECT GIVES ME SUFFICIENT CLOUT TO MAKE REDUCTIONS AND CONSOLIDATIONS WITHOUT STRONGER WASHINGTON BACKING. ONE

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MAJOR FACTOR IS AID TRUST FUND THROUGH WHICH PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT PAYS FOR MOST OF AID ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.
RESULT IS THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE INVENTIVE FOR CONSOLIDATION
WITH EMBASSY. CASE FOR USIS NEEDING BOTH ASSISTANT PAO
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER HAS NOT BEEN MADE CONVINCINGLY TO ME.
I AM SURE THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WORTHY OF STUDY.

B. SURVEY OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION: EACH OF MY PREDE-
CESSORS HAS LOOKED AT LARGE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
AND HAS QUESTIONED JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS SIZE. I CAN FULLY
APPRECIATE BOTH POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR MAINTAINING USVA
OFFICE HERE AND NEED TO DEAL WITH EVER PRESENT PROBLEM OF
FRAUD. DISCUSSIONS WITH VA OFFICE DIRECTOR INVARIABLY
RESULTS IN HIS PRESENTING STRONG CRQISFDPBS LMNIXUAX
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CURRENT LEVELS. ONLY EXAMINATION AT WASHINGTON LEVEL,
POSSIBLY COMBINED WITH BROADER LOOK AT OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE
CONSOLIDATION SUGGESTED ABOVE CAN GIVE AUTHORITATIVE BASIS
FOR ANY SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION.

4. USIS HAS REQUESTED RESTORATION OF POSITION OF AMERICAN
SECRETARY ABOLISHED BY PREVIOUS PAO. I REMAIN UNCONVINCED
THAT ADJUSTMENTS CANNOT BE MADE IN THEIR PRESENT LEVEL TO
PROVIDE FOR THIS OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY POSITION. EXAMINATION
OF NEED FOR BOTH ASSISTANT PAO AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER REFERRED
TO ABOVE MAY BE ONE KEY TO GENUINE NEED FOR NEW POSITION.

5. AID MANILA HAS BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE IN PROPOSING
REDUCTIONS MENTIONED IN CHART ABOVE. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER,
BEEN ADVISED BY AID WASHINGTON THAT THEY SHOULD RETAIN AT
LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE AMERICAN POSITIONS AND THEY
HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ADD ADDITIONAL ONES. THIS DOES NOT
SUGGEST BROAD COORDINATED COOPERATION NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE
REDUCTIONS PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FOR.

6. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE NEED AT THIS POST FOR A
SECOND USG AIRCRAFT IDENTICAL TO OUR DAO AIRCRAFT AND
ASSIGNED TO JUSMAG SHOULD BE REEVALUATED.
NEWSOM

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